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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/821,025	03/30/2001	Ed H. Chi	108546	5532

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EXAMINER

ZHONG, CHAD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2152

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/821,025

Applicant(s)

CHI ET AL.

Examiner

Chad Zhong

Art Unit

2152

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

FINAL ACTION

1. Claims 1-11 are presented for examination.
2. It is noted that although the present application does contain line numbers in specification and claims, the line numbers in the claims do not correspond to the preferred format. The preferred format is to number each line of every claim, with each claim beginning with line 1. For ease of reference by both the Examiner and Applicant all future correspondence should include the recommended line numbering.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
4. Claims 1, 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Ross, Jr. et al. (hereinafter Ross), US 6,629,135, in view of Nielsen, US 6,339,437.
5. As per claim 1, Ross teaches a method for combined browsing and searching in a collection of connected content portions comprising:

determining at least one user keyword (Col. 15, lines 1-30);

determining at least one relevant document path of connected content portions (Col. 15, lines 1-30);

determining an information scent value associated with the relevant document path (Col. 15, lines 1-35);

synthesizing a display attribute based on the determined information scent and the at least one user keyword (Col. 14, lines 20-35; Col. 15, lines 1-30).

Ross does not explicitly teach:

wherein the display attribute is selected from a list comprising font size, font color, degree of bolding, font type, font style, presence or absence of a border and border color.

In a similar field of art, Nielsen teaches of a search engine system wherein the results are returned in accordance with their degree of relevancy (see for example, Col. 1, lines 17-21; Col. 2, lines 5-10). The font of the search results are modified via various text manipulations (Col. 5, lines 15-20), and coloring schemes (Col. 6, lines 10-35), in order to differentiate the relevancy of the returned query.

Nielsen teaches:

wherein the display attribute is selected from a list comprising font size (Col. 5, line 18-20), font color (Col. 6, lines 7-37), font type (Col. 5, lines 18-20).

It would have been obvious to combine teachings of Ross and Nielsen in order to allow users to search and obtain results in accordance with their degree of relevancy (Col. 1, lines 17-25; Col. 2, lines 5-10).

Nielsen does not explicitly teach degree of bolding, font style, presence or absence of a border and border color, however, these display attributes are well known in the art at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to add additional attributes to the existing list as Nielsen suggests (Col. 5, lines 19-20)

6. As per claim 7, Ross teaches

a controller circuit (Col. 2, lines 50-63);

a content determining circuit (abstract);

a topology determining circuit (Col. 5, lines 1-10);

an input/output circuit for entering at least one user keyword (Col. 2, lines 20-45);

a relevant document path determining circuit that determines at least relevant document path of connected content portions based on at least one user keyword (Col. 15, lines 15-35);

the remaining sections of claim 7 is rejected for the same reasons as rejection to corresponding sections in claim 1 above.

8. Claims 2-6 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ross, Jr. et al. (hereinafter Ross), US 6,629,135, in view of Nielsen, US 6,339,437, in further view of Schuetze et al. (hereinafter Schuetze), US 2003/0074368.

9. As per claim 2, Ross does not explicitly teach the method of claim 1, wherein the determined information scent value is determined by an information scent document vector.

10. Schuetze teaches the above sections in the sample section of [0076].

11. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time of invention was made to combine the teaching of Ross and Schuetze because they both dealing search engines. Furthermore, the teaching of Schuetze to allow determined information scent value is determined by an information scent document vector. would improve the efficiency for Ross's system by defining a quantitative similarity metric between documents using a vector approach.

12. As per claim 3, Ross teaches the method of claim 2, wherein determining content information is based on weighted word frequency of each content portion (Col. 24, lines 7-15; Col. 15, lines 1-35).

13. As per claim 4, Ross teaches the method of claim 2, wherein each content portion in the relevant document path is weighted based on content portion position in the relevant document path (Col. 15, lines 1-55).

14. As per claim 5, Ross teaches the method of claim 2, wherein the synthesized display attribute relates to the connection or links among content portions (Col. 14, lines 20-35; Col. 15, lines 1-30).

15. As per claim 6, claim 6 is rejected for the same reasons as rejection to claim 5 above.
16. As per claims 8-11, claims 8-11 are rejected for the same reasons as rejection to claims 2-5 above respectively.

Conclusion

17. Applicant's remarks filed 12/09/04 have been considered but are found not persuasive.
18. In the remark, the applicant argued in substance that Ross fails to disclose or suggest "wherein he display attribute is selected from the list comprising font size, font color, degree of bolding, font type, font style, presence or absence of a border and border color".
- In response to applicant's amendment, Ross teaches the above section.
- Referring to the sample section of Col. 12, lines 40-60, Ross explicitly discloses of generating/synthesizing of store display attribute based upon host's clicked URL. The display attribute comprises color, page layout, frames, that are consistent with host's website. The display attribute disclosed here reads on the display attribute as claimed in claim 1 and 7.
- Thus, Ross teaches the newly amended claims at least for the reasons stated above.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reined of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

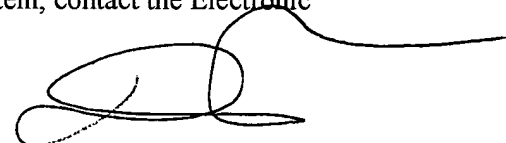
19. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents and publications are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to "SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR COMBINED BROING AND SEARCHING IN A DOCUMENT COLLECTION BASED ON INFORMATION SCENT".

- i. US 5963969 Tidwell
- ii. US 6070160 Geary
- iii. US 6615172 Bennett et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chad Zhong whose telephone number is (571)272-3946. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:15 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BURGESS, GLENTON B can be reached on (571)272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Dung C. Dinh
Primary Examiner